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■ ORDER OF ONTARIO

Pelham's prestigious golfer

MARYANNE FIRTH
PelhamNews Staff

WELLAND — With the most prestigious national award already under her belt, it seemed fitting Marlene Stewart Streit add the highest provincial distinction to her impressive list of accomplishments.

see **ORDER** | page 2



Marlene Stewart Streit, centre, is pictured Lt.-Col. Jeff Cairns, left, and Lieutenant Governor of Ontario David C. Onley, right, during the Order of Ontario investiture ceremony at Queen's Park Feb. 6.

Supplied Photo

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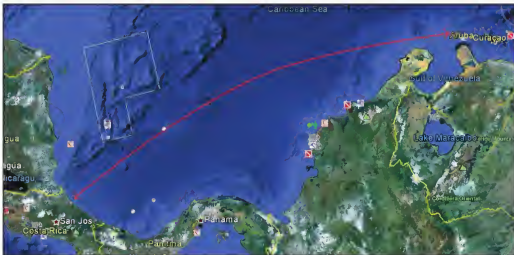
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upfront

■ TEEN REMEMBERED: Hughes family sends message in a bottle



Sam and Pearl Hughes threw two bottles in the Atlantic Ocean in memory of their son Jake while they were in Aruba. Recently they got an e-mail from someone who found one in Costa Rica.

Jake making global connections even after death

VICTORIA GRAY
PelhamNews Staff

Jake Hughes may be gone, but thanks to his parents his spirit is still exploring the world.

The 19-year-old from Fonthill died last August as a result of an ATV accident in Haliburton. His mother, Pearl, said he was riding the ATV less than five minutes before the crash.

Dealing with the aftermath and a police investigation overwhelmed and exhausted the family in the midst of their grief. The loss of their child left a gaping hole in the Hughes family.

Shortly after Christmas they went to Aruba and threw into

the Caribbean Sea two bottles with laminated messages in different languages. They read: "In memory of Jake Hughes 1993 - 2012. Our son loved to travel, help keep his memory alive."

Jake's brother, Adam, swam to the bottom of the ocean where the bottles were left and retrieved a rock for his mother. Last week, the message was discovered.

Daryl Loth, a Canadian living in Costa Rica, said his brother-in-law, a fisherman in the that nation's community of Tortuguero, found the bottle a few kilometres off shore and could see another bottle glinting in the sunlight about 300 metres away. He didn't understand the

significance of the message, but brought it to Loth hoping to find out.

Loth Googled Hughes, found his obituary and was shocked to find out Hughes was a Fonthill boy.

He e-mailed Sam and Pearl Hughes and told them how the obituary had touched his heart, and of his connection to Niagara.

"I was immediately overcome with emotion," Loth wrote. "What a beautiful gesture on the part of a young man's loving parents."

Pearl's reaction: "It took my breath away. We've had so much sadness in our house because of the police investigation it

brought a little bit of something else to focus on.

"We were thrilled to know there are kind people out there who would take the time to honour our son and they didn't even know him!" Pearl said.

Loth's sister, Kate, lives in Welland. He e-mailed Kate to see if she knows the Hughes.

It turns out her daughters went to preschool with Jake Hughes' younger cousins.

Loth runs a bed and breakfast and takes guests on tours. He decided to take Jake's bottle with him on a tour of one of Costa Rica's rainforest national parks before giving it back to his brother-in-law to set free for another adventure.

■ ORDER

Streit humbled by honour

FROM PAGE 1

Streit, who received the Order of Canada in 1967, was honoured with the Order of Ontario recently during a special ceremony at Queen's Park.

The Canadian golf legend, who won her first national title at the age of 17, is the only woman golfer in history to capture the Canadian, British, Australian and United States Women's Amateur championships.

The now 78-year-old grew up in Pelham and has a park in the town bearing her name. She has accumulated what seems to be an endless list of accomplishments over her decades-long career, including being twice selected Canada's athlete of the year (with both males and females eligible), five times named the country's female athlete of the year and inducted into the Canadian Sports Hall of Fame.

"It's a wonderful honour. I'm very proud," Streit said of her most recent accolade over the phone from her Unionville home. Though she no longer lives in Niagara, she still returns to Pelham regularly to visit family.

Streit also spends several months a year in Florida, but she made it a point to return home early to Canada this

week to attend the investiture ceremony and the gala that followed at Roy Thomson Hall.

Streit first learned she was a recipient of the Order of Ontario in 2005, but had to defer her acceptance to ensure she'd be able to attend the investiture ceremony.

She was thrilled to finally take part in the ceremony and to have her daughter Lynn Streit and golfing friend Leslie Walsh by her side.

Streit called the experience "humbling" and praised the other 24 recipients who were named to the Order of Ontario on Wednesday for their contributions to the province and the country.

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■ MUNICIPAL FINANCE

Pelham taxes climbing 2.92%

ALLAN BENNER
PelhamNews Staff

Taxpayers will be seeing some enhanced town services for the extra \$46 they'll be paying in local taxes this year.

Town council approved its 2013 operating budget last Monday, including a 2.92% tax hike, which means the owner of a Pelham home worth about \$285,000 will pay \$45.91 more on the town's portion of their tax bills this year.

In an interview last Friday, Mayor Dave Augustyn discussed a few improvements residents will be seeing as a result of the \$9.5-million budget—\$265,955 more than the city spent in 2012.

One improvement will mean that as of November,

■ **NIAGARA CENTRAL:** Bill Chernish will discuss his concerns at municipal council meetings

Airport in jeopardy, pilot says

ALLAN BENNER
PelhamNews Staff

WELLAND—Unless things changes, pilot Bill Chernish says the future is doubtful for the airport where he earned his wings.

And the Welland resident and international airline captain plans to visit the municipal councils of the four communities that contribute to the Niagara Central Airport's budget to discuss his concerns.

"I just want to see the airport continue," Chernish said. "And it's not going to continue the way they're (the airport commission) doing it. It's got to be brought to the public's attention."

Barb Butters, chairwoman of the airport commission,

BUDGET

\$9,506,927—total expenditures in 2013
\$399,542—increase over 2011

\$133,587—assessment growth, deducted from spending increase

\$265,955—Net levy increase (2.92%)

residents will no longer be expected to clear snow from municipal sidewalks in front of their homes. The town earmarked about \$7,000 to clear snow from sidewalks throughout Pelham.

Augustyn said the town tried to keep sidewalks clear through bylaw enforcement,

but "we just found that it doesn't really work."

"Some people clear their sidewalks and others are unable to or refuse to. Our vision is to be a very walkable and active community. Instead of asking people to clear their sidewalks, we want them to be able to walk on them."

Augustyn said the town made some "internal changes" that made the town's operations more efficient while enhancing customer service. For instance, he said residents used to have to visit different areas of town hall for various services, but now they can access all the town's services at the same wicket.

The town also set aside funding to hire a new marketing and communications officer, and to provide full-

time jobs to two people who were previously working on contract.

The bulk of the budget increase, however, is related to an increased transfer to the town's capital project to pay for projects like a new skateboard park and enhancements to downtown Fenwick.

When Pelham's tax increase is blended with the regional and education taxes, Augustyn said residents will see their overall tax bills increase by 1.9 to 2.1%. During last Monday's meeting, Augustyn said he is satisfied with the spending plan. On average, the town has raised taxes just 1.6% over the past few years—lower than the rate of inflation.

With files by Sarah Ferguson
allan.benner@sunmedia.ca

■ LEISURE: CTV wants to come back to Pelham



Isaac Riehl.

Submitted photo

Riehl skatepark to be complete by September

SARAH FERGUSON
PelhamNews Staff

PELHAM—Pelham's youth will likely be rolling into the Isaac Riehl Skate Park in September, thanks to the grant secured from the Aviva Community Fund contest.

After the hoopla of *Canada AM* coming to E.L. Crossley Secondary School and Aviva awarding \$115,000 to Pelham's proposed skate park subsided two weeks ago, the town began the process of forming a stakeholder's advisory group to assist in identifying potential sites for the park, chief administrator Darren Ottaway reported last Monday night in town council chambers.

The town has committed matching the funds, giving a total of \$230,000 for the park to be named after the Grade

9 student who died last fall days after being hit by a car while longboarding on Foss Rd.

Ottaway said the documents have been received for accessing the grant dollars and a third-party administrator will be used to release the grant.

"Aviva has indicated that the project be completed for September," Ottaway said, adding, "CTV has indicated an interest in returning to Pelham to celebrate the opening of the park and to initiate next year's contest."

The next steps will be to gather input from the stakeholder groups, involve the skateboarding community.

"We will form a map of potential locations, set up criteria to evaluate selections and work with the group to come up with a united recommendation."

PELHAM NEWS

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Wynne must cut spending, reduce debt

On Monday, Kathleen Wynne was sworn in as Ontario's new premier.

With that, she named her cabinet, will unveil a Throne Speech following the resumption of the Legislature on Feb. 19, and bring down a budget, probably in March.

But while legally and constitutionally Wynne will become premier, she hasn't been endorsed by the electorate, merely by her own party.

And the minority Liberal government she will head has been battered by years of scandal and mismanagement.

In our system, the premier is the person who commands the confidence of the Legislature. But at the moment, Ontarians have no idea whether, or for how long, that will be the case with Wynne.

She has promised to co-operate with the opposition parties on behalf of the public, re-establish relations with working-to-rule Ontario teachers, and to elevate the tone of debate in the Legislature.

But the truth is that she's the sort of motherhood and maple syrup stuff all rookie political leaders have to say.

We're interested in how Wynne plans to reduce the massive provincial deficit and debt her predecessor Dalton McGuinty, saddled us with, before he resigned and while she served in his cabinet.

That won't happen if Wynne starts making expensive deals with Ontario NDP Leader Andrea Horwath — who has been making a new demand of Wynne almost every day since the Liberals chose her as their leader! — in return for the NDP's support.

Since they were elected in 2003, the Liberals have more than doubled the province's annual deficit to \$11.9 billion from the \$5.6 billion they inherited from the previous Progressive Conservative government in 2003.

They've almost doubled the province's total debt, to \$255 billion from \$139 billion. They, meaning we, are now paying more than \$10 billion per year simply to pay off the interest on that debt, without reducing the principal. That's more than we spend on post-secondary education in Ontario and it's a lesson in basic economics the Liberals have never understood.

It's that you can't find health care, or education, or any other government program properly, once you let the debt get out of control.

Everyone from the Fraser Institute, a conservative think tank, to economist Don Drummond, the Liberals' own hired gun on provincial finances, has warned them they must curtail their spending and lower the debt. If they don't, far from balancing the budget, as the Liberals have promised to do by 2017-2018, they set us up for a California-like economic collapse, or even a Greek one.

While we'd like to be pleasantly surprised, we don't believe Wynne is the one up for the job of restoring Ontario to fiscal sanity. Nor do we believe the Liberals, given their record, are the party to do it.

—Sun Media

■ COLUMN

We officially approved our 2013 Operating Budget during our Town Council meeting last Monday.

While council gave direction to ensure minimal impact on you and other property tax-payers last fall, we also approved ways to increase the town's level of service. For instance, council asked staff to become more customer-friendly, to start clearing snow from all town sidewalks (for next winter), to emphasize recreation, culture, and wellness, and to continue to improve the image of the town. At the same time, we also directed staff to ensure we continued to improve the town's infrastructure and facilities.

These decisions mean budget changes. For example, continuing to improve infrastructure added \$161,000 to the budget. Significant organization changes — 5 job reclassifications including establishing a director of recreation, culture and wellness,

turning two contract positions to permanent, removing a number of part-time positions, and adding a marketing and communications officer — added \$3,000 to the budget. Creatively revamping snow-clearing and beginning to clear all Town sidewalks (effective Nov. 1, 2013) added only \$7,000 to the budget. Uncontrollable, wage-related increases — benefits, CPP, EI — added \$56,000 to the budget. As a result of these and other initiatives, the Treasurer recommended a net budget increase of \$399,542 (on a \$9.5 million net budget) or 4.39% before adjusting for real assessment growth.



**DAVE
AUGUSTYN**

MAYORAL VIEW

Real assessment growth in 2013 — from new businesses, new homes, or improvements to existing properties — was \$133,587 or 1.47%. (This growth has nothing to do with MPAC's changes in market value assessment of existing properties.)

Once growth is removed, the net effect on the tax levy will be \$265,955 or an increase of 2.92% on the Town of Pelham portion of your 2013 property tax bill.

What does that mean for your pocket book, you ask?

Well, the average residential property value for 2013 is expected to be \$291,556. If your home and property were assessed at that value, you would be paying an additional

\$45.91 or a total of \$1,335 for the Pelham portion of the municipal services on your property tax bill.

To put the 2013 Operating Budget into perspective — from what we are hearing and reading in the media from across Niagara — Pelham will likely be the lowest or among the lowest increases again this year.

I will write more about your total property tax impact after Regional Council approves the 2013 rates and ratios later this spring.

For more information about our 2013 Operating Budget, please check out "Budget & Financial Reports" under "Information for Residents" on the Town's website at www.pelham.ca.

You may contact Mayor Dave Augustyn at mayordave@pelham.ca or read past columns at www.pelhammayordave.blogspot.com.

■ COLUMN

What's Happening in Niagara?

The Niagara real estate market continues to steer a steady course. Total unit sales in 2012 across all nine local communities served by the Niagara Association of Realtors crept up marginally over last year's results. With 5704 single family sales reported this year compared to the 5664 recorded in 2011 unit sales increased 0.7%.

Interesting these figures stand in stark contrast to recent National media pronouncements of "The Great Real Estate Crash of 2013". While the pundits have been writing similar attention catching headlines regularly for the past few years we, Realtors have been working away doing business as usual here in Niagara.

According to the MLS* sales reports of the Niagara



**CATHY
BERKHOT-
BOSSE**

REAL ESTATE VIEW

Association of REALTORS® the 12 Month Average Price in Niagara reached \$232,518 in December 2012 — up 2.3% over the 2011 December Year-to-Date figure of \$226,022.

When you consider that the December 2012 Average Sale Price in the Greater Toronto Area stood at \$497,298 it is easy to see that there is an affordability factor fuelling our local market. Niagara is an extremely attractive market especially to Zoomers approaching retirement age and increasingly also to tele-

commuters who can function quite effectively from their home-based satellite offices.

Across Niagara, the highest unit sales increases were reported in Niagara-on-the-Lake (+15.3%); Pelham (+7.14%); and Thorold (+3.7%). On the other side of that coin, there were three Niagara communities that experienced a decline in annual unit sales: Welland (-5.4%); Lincoln (-5.2%) and St. Catharines (-0.64%).

Niagara-on-the-Lake continues to be Niagara's highest

price neighbourhood reporting a 12 month Average Price of \$437,153. Pelham is in 2nd place at \$319,158 with Lincoln running a close 3rd at \$317,163 due to a whooping annual price increase of 5.8%.

Any guesses what Niagara community experienced the largest average price increase during 2012? How many of you picked out the gem of a city on Niagara's South Coast — yes, indeed the price growth leader is Port Colborne reporting an increase of 6.3% climbing from \$195,966 in 2011 to \$206,297 in 2012.

Cathy Berkhot-Bosse, H.B.A., is a real estate broker at Homax Welland Realty Ltd. You may read past columns at www.NiagaraRealtySourceReport.com

Medal haul



BERND FRANKE Staff Photo

Nine-year-old Alexia Massey of Pelham won a number of medals at a gymnastics meet in St. Catharines where she placed first overall in the age 9, Level 4 division.

LETTER

Pelham Cares is thankful for support over holidays

Throughout the year, Pelham Cares sees the generosity of our great community with the many donations of food, funds and goods that are received almost daily, for Pelham families in need. During the month of December, and throughout the holiday season, we are overwhelmed at the generosity of our fine community and the abundance of donations brought in.

The season of giving was kicked off with the Pelham Community Food drive, which saw approximately one hundred volunteers gather at the Old Fenwick Fire Hall to receive, sort and pack the tons of food that were so generously donated by the Pelham community. Our volunteers were fed thanks to yummy homemade chili from the Lazy Loon, sweets, cakes and rolls from Fonthill Sobey's and hot chocolate from Tim Horton's, Fonthill.

Of course, none of this could have taken place had it not been for the dedication of the Pelham Community Food Drive organizers; Sylvia and Gerry Berkout, Gwenn Alves, and the hundreds of volunteers who braved the cold to go door to door to collect the tons of food donated by this caring community. We would also like to recognize and thank the OPP Auxiliary who collected food and monetary donations

at the Fonthill Sobey's on Dec 1st. As well, we would like to thank the Pelham Firefighters Association for holding their annual toy drive. The many toys were distributed to Pelham families in need and made for a happy Christmas for many children.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Pelham

Cares, staff, volunteers and clients; a heartfelt thank you goes out to the Pelham community, as well as all the groups, businesses and individuals mentioned above. Once again, your generosity will go far to help families in need in our community.

Betty Brown Coordinator, Client Services



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■ POLITICS

No big governance reform at Region

JEFF BOLICHOWSKI
QMI Agency Niagara

THOROLD — Regional council's last chance for a big governance move ended last Thursday with councillors seeking only to keep the regional chair's job within the council horseshoe.

Councillors backed a move from committee and voted 18-10 on an amendment to seek the province's permission to limit candidates for chair to sitting councillors. They want that to happen in 2014, but they'll need provincial consent, public meetings and a triple majority vote.

And they deferred entirely a look at having elected officials serve on both city and regional council. They asked that the proposal come back when a governance committee in St. Catharines weighs in on the issue.

"What we did get cleared up is the chair must be elected from the members of council and must have a seat," said Grimsby Coun. Debbie Zimmerman.

But she said she wanted to see the regional chair elected at large.

"I think the only appetite was taking a minor step."

Councillors gave the debate over electing the chair a bit of time, but it focused largely on



I'm not optimistic that this council or any regional council will be able to reform itself."

Brian McMullan, St. Catharines mayor

a procedural quagmire.

That came after Zimmerman put forward an amendment outlining the steps the Region would have to take to make the tweak happen, then took her name off it. Councillors quickly got bogged down trying to decide how to handle the nameless motion still on the floor.

Eventually another councillor moved the proposal and they continued on to accept it.

Zimmerman conceded the amendment may have confused councillors.

St. Catharines Mayor Brian McMullan said the desire for governance reform exists mainly in St. Catharines.

Three of the six St.

Catharines councillors — Andy Petrowski, Bruce Timms and Ronna Kazman — joined McMullan in voting against the move.

The other nos came from Zimmerman, Niagara Falls Coun. Barbara Greenwood, Port Colborne Mayor Vance Badawey and Coun. David Barrick, Lincoln Mayor Bill Hodgson and Wainfleet Mayor April Jeffs.

McMullan said the chair should be elected at large.

"One woman, one man, one vote. It's democracy," he said.

"It basically is a weighted voting system here at the Region. I don't think that's democratic."

Change, he said, won't

come from the council horseshoe.

"I'm not optimistic that this council or any regional council will be able to reform itself," McMullan said. He said the province needs to step in and handle governance reform.

Zimmerman poured cold water on that notion.

"The province is not stepping in. The new premier-elect has made that very clear," she said.

She figured public frustration over Niagara's double tax structure would be the eventual driver behind reform.

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Or \$4.50 for drop in class

Purchase your passes at Town Hall - 20 Pelham Town Square Fonthill, ON.

Walking Club

Interested in Walking in Pelham? Interested in joining a Walking Club?

Join us!

Wednesday Feb 13th

Pelham Arena

9am-10am

Thursday Feb 21st

Pelham Arena

9am - 10:30am

Everyone welcome!

For more information please contact

(905) 892-2607 ext 341

TOWN OF PELHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY

Pelham Public Library

43 Pelham Town Square

Box 630

Fonthill, ON L5S 1E2

905-892-6443

<http://www.pelhamlibrary.on.ca>

<http://www.pelhamlibrary.blogspot.com>

Geocaching 101

Geocaching is a worldwide treasure hunt - an environmentally friendly outdoor recreational activity for families or individuals alike. Search for hidden objects using clues and GPS coordinates. This workshop is intended for beginners and for people who are interested in finding out more about geocaching. Judy Minor who has been geocaching for about five years and has set up a number of events for geocachers will facilitate this event. Be prepared for outdoor weather as we search for the Pelham Public Library's first cache. Sat., Feb. 23 from 1-2:30. Adults: \$3.00, Children and teens: \$1.00. Please register ahead.

Depression

Depression affects all of us. Learn about what causes it, the different types of depression and what helps. A mental health specialist from The Canadian Mental Health Association and a volunteer will share their personal journey with depression during this informative session. Mon., Feb. 26 at 6:00. Please register ahead.

Book Sale

Great books, puzzles, movies, games, and more at great prices! Tues., Mar. 5 - Sat., Mar. 9. Open during regular library hours (until 5:30 Saturday). Bag day (open until 1 p.m.). Garbly-used Donations Being Accepted. Now, clothing, encyclopedias, text books, and magazines.

Clothing Sale

Mon. April 8th - Sat. April 13th

All styles and sizes of clothing for men, women and children being accepted.

ONGOING

Knit Wits - Knitting Club

Work on your present project while spending time with other knitters. All levels are welcome. Crocheters welcome. Knitting tips will be shared at each session. Fridays from 1-3. Begin Jan. 4. \$2.00 includes refreshments. Drop in.

Meditation Morning

Maria leads you through different types of meditations for stress relief and focus. Great for beginners and those who have meditated before. To fun, learn what the symbols from your creative visualization mean. Bring a pen and notebook. \$3.00. Please register ahead. Sat. Feb 9 & Mar 2 9:30-1:30 am.

Drop-in Bridge

Afternoon Wednesdays. 1:00-3:00 p.m. Come alone or with a friend.

Refreshments. Monthly scholarship available at front desk. Pelham Public Library.

Monthly Hearing Clinic

Contact Hearing will be here at the Fonthill Branch during free hearing screenings. They will be able to answer any questions about various hearing issues. Free but please schedule your appointment at: 905-892-6098. Feb. 4, 10:00am - 1:00pm

GENERAL INFORMATION

Town of Pelham - RESERVE CROSSING GUARDS

There is an immediate need for reserve school crosswalk guards to relieve the regular guards during periods of illness and vacation. The position has an hourly pay rate of \$12.86 per hour.

Persons interested in becoming a reserve school crosswalk guard can pick up an application form in the Recreation, Culture & Wellness Department (20 Pelham Town Square).

March Break Camp

This year's camp will be held March 11-15 at the Pelham Arena. The camp has room for approximately 50 children with many activities planned throughout the week. This year's activities include ice skating, a visit from London Reader, trip to White Meadows Farm and the Fonthill Fire Station, winter outdoor activities, Zumba, cultural experience with the Fonthill Library, creative crafts, songs and games all making an unforgettable March Break experience. Registrations are now being accepted for March Break Camp. Please visit the website at www.pelham.ca for details.

Overnight Parking

Permit is required By-Law No. 89-2000 as amended by By-Law #2654(2005) prohibits parking on all roads and streets in the Town of Pelham, except Church Hill from 5:00am to 6:00am from November 1 to 1 March 31.

Removal of Snow and Ice from Sidewalks

Please be reminded By-Law No. 3164 (2011) requires that, after the effective end of any winter precipitation event, the owner or occupant of every occupied building and the owner of every unoccupied building and the owner of every parcel of vacant land, shall clear away and remove, or cause to be cleared away and removed, snow and ice from the sidewalk to a clear condition within twenty-four (24) hours. Please take steps to ensure that you are in compliance with the by-law.

Town of Pelham - SNOW ANGEL PROGRAM

The Town of Pelham in partnership with Pelham Care Inc. offers a volunteer snow/ice removal service for persons within the Town of Pelham urban areas' living with physical disabilities who are incapable of carrying out sidewalk snow/ice removal at their place of residence.

Volunteers will have 24 hours to clear the snow/ice following the effective end of any winter precipitation event, winter precipitation event means snow, freezing rain or hail that leaves any accumulation of snow/ice on the sidewalk. Volunteers will remove snow/ice from the municipal sidewalk and the sidewalk left at driveway entrances by snowplows during snow clearing operations.

Application forms for residents and volunteers are available on the Town's website at www.pelham.ca or at Town Hall. Please call 905-892-2607 extension 332 for additional information.

Interested in Joining the Communities in Bloom Committee?

The Communities in Bloom Committee is a Town Committee dedicated to keeping Pelham beautiful. The Committee is responsible for planning events such as Pelham's Annual Garden Tour and Community Participation Days in the Fall and Spring.

To become part of this committee or for further information please contact the Recreation, Culture & Wellness Coordinator (905) 892-2607 ext. 341.

Is your business interested in being listed in the Town of Pelham Recreation, Culture & Wellness Guide?

If so, please be sure to fill out a business directory information card with the Town of Pelham. For an information card, please visit Town Hall, 20 Pelham Town Square - 1st Floor, or contact Julie Cook (905) 892-2607, ext. 315

Interested in renting the lot? Anna Hall? Old Pelham Town Hall?

Call the Town of Pelham at 905-892-2607, Ext. 329

IMPORTANT TO DOG OWNERS

Please be reminded that Town of Pelham Dog Control By-law 97-2010 requires that any person who owns controls or harbors a dog shall remove, forthwith, any feces (excrement) left by such dog on private or public property. Remember to be responsible! Stop and Scoop!

ONTARIO ONE CALL 1-800-400-2255

All requests for waterline and sewer locates must be directed to Ontario One Call

KEEP PELHAM STREETS "LIT"

Residents of the Town of Pelham are asked to report any problems with streetlights

to the Public Works Department at 905-892-2607, ext.332

The hydro utility requires that a pole number be provided when reporting the problem

Town of Pelham e-mail address: clerk@pelham.ca

Visit our Web site at www.pelham.ca

TOWN COUNCIL



LIGHTS AT PANCAKE

The intersection of Pelham St. and Pancake Lane will be made safer with the installation of traffic signals. As a result of residents' concerns, council initiated the traffic study which compared the intersections of Pelham St. at Pancake Lane and Pelham St. at the north entrance of Sorbuside Cres. The study also measured traffic at other intersections along Pelham St., including John St. and Merritt Rd. to have a comprehensive collection of traffic volumes.

The study indicated Pancake Lane has a greater amount of traffic than Spruceside Cres.

The committee-of-the-whole met last Monday night and approved the staff recommendation which will be forwarded to council at an upcoming meeting to be ratified.

TRAIL TRIALS

Pelham council has asked town staff to provide more information about alternative access to the John Nemy Trail system in Marlene Stewart Street Park.

The Pelham Active Transportation Committee has expressed concern that pending development may make access from the John Nemy trail system to a significant trail system on the former Lathrop property unavailable.

In correspondence with the Town of Pelham, the committee has said it will meet with staff to discuss options for the trail.

PLANS TO MEET

The City of St. Catharines has asked Pelham to support a review of Niagara's site plan approval process to expedite the process for issuing building permits and make it easier for developers to encourage investment within towns and cities.

The proposed review would require all 12 municipalities to meet to discuss the matter.

Pelham's committee-of-the-whole met last Monday to discuss the proposed motion and agreed a review is needed. However, the committee approved the motion with one amendment – that all 12 municipalities should meet more often to discuss issues that affect all 12 communities.

sarah.ferguson@summedia.ca
905-732-2414 ext. 231

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■ COMMUNITY

Cash for Pelham pool and Old Town Hall

PELHAM — Federal funding is making a big splash in Pelham.

Mayor Dave Augustyn

announced this week that the town has received \$158,000 from the Community Infrastructure Improvement

Fund.

The fund has committed to supporting communities through repairs and

improvements to existing public facilities over the next two years.

From Pelham's grant,

\$75,000 will be used to upgrade the swimming pool at Marlene Stewart Street Park and \$77,000 will be

used to renovate Old Pelham Town Hall.

— QMI Agency Niagara



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European model shown. Features and equipment may vary in Canada. \$/Cdn. available for new BMW models only, excluding 67000M models. Excess Wear and Use Protection provided by BMW Financial Services Canada. Up to \$1000 of coverage is provided for damage, including parts valued at \$200 or less. This plan is non-transferable and subject to BMW Financial Services Canada terms and conditions. No cash payment received or applied to other applications must for same program. This leasing program for a new 2013 BMW 328i xDrive Sport Line Lease is \$1,100.36, which includes MSRP \$39,900, freight/PTD of \$2,000, A/C levy of \$100, C/M/V/C \$50, and the manufacturer fee (\$20.36). LEASE option credit of \$1,500. Credit offer is not redeemable for cash. **Option credit of \$1,500 applies to lease, finance, and most purchase alternatives to exclude new 2013 BMW 3 Series models. Credit offer is not redeemable for cash. †Excess wear of 2.0¢ per km for 48 months included only through BMW Financial Services Canada on approved credit. Lease sample based on MSRP of a new 2013 BMW 328i xDrive Sport Line. Lease base price \$39,900 at 0.9% APR for 48 months. Monthly payment is \$368 with down payment or trade-in equivalent of \$7,326. 19999/PTD up to \$2,000. Dealer administration fee of \$200. A/C levy of \$100. PPSA of \$20.40. C/M/V/C \$50, and the manufacturer fee (\$20.36) only includes the down payment. Licensing, registration, and applicable taxes are extra and due on signing. The residual value of the vehicle at the end of the term is \$25,200. Annual mileage limited to 16,000 km per leasee kilometers. Residuals are fixed to suit individual prices and change administration fees, which may change the APR at the price of the vehicle. Offer expires February 28, 2013. Offer requires Residual participation. Offer is subject to availability and may be cancelled or changed without notice. Certain conditions apply. See your local BMW Retailer or finance for full details. These 2013 BMW vehicles purchased from an authorized BMW Retailer in Canada are covered by a No-Charge Scheduled Maintenance plan for four years or 80,000 km, whichever comes first. Certain limitations apply. Contact your Performance BMW for details. ©2013 BMW Canada Inc. "BMW," the BMW logo, BMW model designations and all other BMW related marks, slogans and symbols are the exclusive property and/or trademarks of BMW AG, used under license.

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■ **HUMANE SOCIETY:** Cupcakes a real treat for SPCA

Doggone delicious idea

MARYANNE FIRTH
PelhamNews Staff

WELLAND — Get your Mojo ready.

Welland and District Humane Society certainly has.

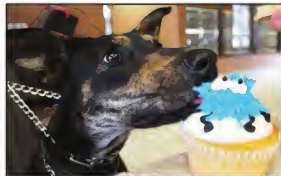
If her wide eyes and wagging tail were any indication, the young lab/shepherd mix with the inventive name was ready to trade her dog treats for 'pupcakes' last Thursday.

But the loveable canine, just like her human counterparts, will have to wait until Monday, Feb. 25, to satisfy her sweet tooth.

National Cupcake Day for SPCAs and Humane Societies will see the popular sugary desserts up for grabs in exchange for monetary donations at the Welland shelter's Provincial St. facility, as well as its cat adoption centre inside Seaway Mall.

West Main Animal Hospital, which has come on as the event's sponsor, will also have cupcakes available — both regular and those made specifically for poodles.

Funds raised locally will support a new companion animal clinic



Mojo is anxiously awaiting National Cupcake Day for SPCAs and Humane Societies happening Feb. 25.

MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

the humane society is working to launch that will assist with low-cost spay and neuter.

While the day is meant to bring in donations, it's also an opportunity to encourage people to visit their local shelter and peek in on pets, like Mojo, for whom adoption would be the proverbial icing on the cake.

Volunteers are needed to assist with baking and other tasks for the special day. For more information, call the humane society at 905-735-1552.

People can also sign up at www.ontariospca.ca to host their own cupcake party to raise funds for the humane society.

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■ **MUSIC:** Chorus Niagara holds Singathon at Seaway Mall

Vocal homecoming for Niagara Chorus

MARYANNE FIRTH
PelhamNews Staff

WELLAND — Chorus Niagara has certainly never heard the phrase *lay low* and sing small.

With both power and precision, the 100-voice choir had music resonating throughout Seaway Mall on Saturday during the group's seventh

annual Singathon fundraiser.

It was a homecoming of sorts for the choral ensemble, renowned for their 2010 flash mob viral video filmed in the mall's food court that seemingly took the world by storm.

The video, in which singers surprised a food court full of people with a performance of the famed Hallelujah chorus from Handel's *Messiah*, has

since garnered more than 41 million views worldwide on YouTube.

Chorus Niagara was hopeful people would again tune in — both online and in person — this time around as their annual fundraiser got underway.

And it seems they got their wish.

Not only were there few

empty seats throughout the five-hour Singathon, there were also plenty of people watching from home as the event was live-streamed by local company eThere.LIVE on the mall's website.

As 2013 marks the choir's 50th anniversary, the group was aiming to raise \$50,000 to assist in the production and promotion of its annual season of four concerts featuring classical, avant-garde and contemporary choral music.

Funds raised are also used to support the Chorus Niagara Side By Side High School Chorus and Chorus Niagara Children's Choir, both which also performed on Saturday.

Several guest conductors were also invited on stage Saturday, following brief instruction from Chorus Niagara artistic director Robert Cooper.

Seaway Mall president Mike Belcastro was the first to take on the important role.

While the experience was fun, he admitted it was quite intimidating to "look up at 100 faces" waiting for direction.

Belcastro gained true appreciation for the work that Cooper does and for the chorus and its impeccable ability to follow direction.

Cooper enjoys inviting guests on stage, allowing them the chance "to be moved by how it feels to have so many people respond to a gesture."

While the Singathon offers exposure for Chorus Niagara in the community, it's also an opportunity for the group's members to bond.

It's not often, Cooper said, that the choir gets to perform in such a relaxed and, well, downright fun atmosphere.

"They like to sing without me stopping them all the time," he quipped, adding rehearsals can be quite strict.

"Sometimes they just like to have a good ol' sing."

The choir particularly enjoys performing at Seaway Mall, he said, because its Centre Court offers impressive acoustics that are hard to come by in Niagara.

In addition to the Singathon, Chorus Niagara is hoping to raise funds by selling 50 celebratory candles that will be lit during the group's final performance of the season in May. The special performance of Verdi's *Requiem* will take place at the Lake St. Armoury in St. Catharines.

For more information, visit www.chorusniagara.ca.

Donations to Chorus Niagara can still be made online at www.canadahelps.org.



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

Soloist Olga Vakoulitch wowed the crowd at Seaway Mall Saturday during Chorus Niagara's seventh annual Singathon fundraiser.

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hockeybrief

PASMA, MOTTOLA NET FIRST GOALS

In tyke action of the Pelham Minor Hockey association, Tim Hortons White Lightning's David Mayor and Tim Hortons Stars' Isaiah Zuidersma led the way in net in an action-packed matchup Saturday.

The end of the first period

was tied 1-1 thanks to single goals collected by Lightning's Braden Miltenburg and the Stars' Max Veld.

Austin Wilson put the Lightning ahead 2-1 in the first few minutes of the second period. Veld answered Wilson's goal to tie the game.

The Lightning struck for five straight goals before finishing the second period.

Miltenburg earned his third

hat trick of the season, while Blake Furtney score two goals.

Wilson also scored his second of the game in the middle frame and went on to earn his third hat trick of the season for the Lightning.

Veld scored his third goal in the first minute of the third period to pull the Stars closer.

Max Pasma scored his first goal of his career.

Michael Motola put one behind Zuidersma, to score for the Lightning, his first of the season. Near the end of the game, Furtney completed his own hat trick, earning first

star honours for the Lightning. Brody Miltenburg, Jack Levasseur and Dylan Capra played great at both ends of the ice for the Lightning, while Ryan Higgins of the Stars

showed some amazing hustle to get back on defence. The Lightning will skate onto the arena for a matchup against Tim Hortons Blue Dogs Saturday, Feb. 16 at 7:55 a.m.

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Black Panthers victorious in 3-0 shutout

For PelhamNews

In between the pipes, Nick Yiodassiss led the Mossimo's Peevee Black Panthers to victory with a 3-0 shutout.

The Panthers defeated the Thorold Community Credit Union Blackhawks who sat just behind them in the league

standings.

Jeremy Pollard, fresh off the injured list, played a little tic-tac-toe with Braeden Prout on his way to netting the first goal of the game.

Pollard struck again early in the second period going top shelf from Noah Wouthuis and Dan

Durkin.

Later that period, Noah Wouthuis grinded it out in front of the net to score with help from Dean Coates.

Also returning after healing from an injury, Nick Chambers streaked up and down the ice during the game.

TICKETS ARE ON SALE NOW!

Women in Business 2012

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH, 2013

5:30 pm to 8:00 pm at

NIAGARA COLLEGE – WELLAND CAMPUS

Applied Health Institute – main entrance First Avenue

Ticket Price: \$35 includes HST

Limited number of tickets available.

Enjoy the culinary creations presented by the chefs & students from the

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Networking encouraged! Door prizes, gift bags and more!

FORTICKETS CALL 905-684-7251 ext. 213

Visa or Mastercard only please

Deadline for ticket purchase is Monday, February 18, 2013.

Advance ticket sales only - no tickets at the door

SUN MEDIA
The Standard REVIEW THE TRIBUNE



PHARMASAVE



Aaron Soggio
R.Ph.B.Sc.PHM

Ask Our

Pharmacists



Scott Penner
R.Ph.B.Sc.PHM

LOWER YOUR CHOLESTEROL THE NATURAL WAY!

Many patients come into the pharmacy and have questions about cholesterol and what they can do to decrease it. Whether they found out they have elevated cholesterol through routine blood work or have a family history of high cholesterol, patients are curious about natural ways of lowering their cholesterol.

There are two types of cholesterol: a "good" cholesterol (HDL) and "bad" cholesterol (LDL). For patients with high cholesterol, the goal of therapy is to increase the amount of HDL and decrease the amount of LDL. Approximately 80% of cholesterol is made by the body and only 20% comes from the food you eat.

Many commercials for food products such as cereals and margarines are advertising that they can help lower cholesterol. The goal of this article is to examine the evidence of the effectiveness of various natural health and food products on the market that claim to lower cholesterol.

Products that contain soluble fibres such as psyllium (ie. Metamucil) or oat bran are known as bile acid binders. These products increase the excretion of cholesterol from the body as well as increase the breakdown of cholesterol in the body to less harmful products. Between 10 and 30 grams of psyllium fibre daily mixed with others foods has been shown to have a significant cholesterol lowering effect.

Between 1.5 and 3 grams per day of Niacin (Vitamin B3) has been shown to lower bad cholesterol while increasing good cholesterol. In some patients, Niacin can cause skin flushing (redness of the skin) as well as itching. There are "flush-free" or "no flush" Niacin products available; however, their effectiveness has not been established.

Plant sterols and stanols often found in margarines labeled heart healthy (such as Becel Pro-Active) have been shown to prevent some of the absorption of cholesterol from the diet and can be included as part of a healthy diet high in fruits and vegetables to lower cholesterol.

Finally, some studies have shown that between 600 and 1200mg of garlic in three divided doses can lower the levels of cholesterol and triglycerides (fat) in the body. Unfortunately, some patients report bad breath as well as nausea and flatulence when taking this amount of garlic.

Patients who have been prescribed a cholesterol lowering medication called a "statin" such as Crestor (rosuvastatin) or Lipitor (atorvastatin) can consider taking Coenzyme Q10. Statins inhibit the synthesis of Coenzyme Q10, which may lead to muscle weakness and impaired energy metabolism.

If you have any questions about natural health products available to help lower your cholesterol, be sure to ask your physician or community pharmacist to see if those products are right for you.

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AROUND TOWN

SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 17
SOUP'S ON

Fenwick Lionsess present a soup and bread lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Fenwick Lions Club, 999 Church St., Fenwick. A selection of homemade soups, a variety of breads, dessert, coffee, tea, juice, cost is \$7 per person.

WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 20
CFWU MEETING

The Canadian Federation of University Women, Welland and District Unit meet at Plymouth Cordage Retirement Residence, 110 Plymouth Rd. Welland beginning at 7p.m. Ellie Cholette will speak about Colonel Rose's home in Welland. She will talk about it's history as well as present plans. We welcome all women and stress membership is open to any women supporting the pursuit of knowledge, promotion of education, improvement of the status of women and girls and active participation in public affairs in the spirit of co-operation and friendship (with or without a university degree).

SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 23
SOUPERIFIC COOKOFF

At Holy Trinity Church, 77

Division St., Welland, from noon to 1 p.m. A \$5 passport to sample 10 international soups prepared by newcomers to Canada who now call Welland home. Tickets on sale at the Welland Heritage Council.

TUESDAY
FEBRUARY 26

DEPRESSION SEMINAR
Depression affects all of us. Learn about what causes it, the different types of depression and what helps. A mental health specialist from The Canadian Mental Health Association and a volunteer will share their personal journeys with depression during this informative session at Pelham Public Library at 6 p.m. Free. Please register ahead.

SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 26
GEOCACHING 101

Geocaching is a worldwide treasure hunt – an environmentally friendly outdoor recreational activity for families or individuals alike. Search for hidden objects using clues and GPS coordinates at Pelham Public Library. This workshop is intended for beginners and for people who are interested in finding out more about geocaching. Judy Minor who has been geocaching for about five years

and has set up a website for events for geocachers will facilitate this event. 1 p.m. to 2:30. Adults: \$3. Children and teens \$1. Please register ahead.

FRIDAY
MARCH 1

PELHAM WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
Service to be hosted by North Pelham First Presbyterian Church, 602 Metier Rd., North Pelham, starting at 2 p.m. This year's theme, written by the women of France, is "I was a Stranger and You Welcomed Me". All are welcome to attend.

ONGOING LISTINGS

LEGION DINNERS
Legion lunches will be served at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 613 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Talbot Trail-Veterans Way, 141 Hwy 20 East, Fonthill. Feb. 15: sausage on a bun, sauerkraut, onions, green peppers; Feb. 22, lightly battered fish and chips, six ounce Canadian Digby fish, hand cut fries, available 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4:30 to 7 p.m. Lunches include dessert and tea or coffee. \$10 per person.

KNITTING CLUB
Work on your present project while spending time

with other knitters at Pelham Public Library. All levels are welcome. Crochet-ers welcome. Knitting tips will be shared at each session. Fridays from 1-3. \$2 includes refreshments. Drop in.

MEDITATION MORNING
Marcia leads you through different types of meditations for stress relief and focus at Pelham Public Library. Great for beginners and those who have meditated before. For fun, learn what the symbols from your creative visualization mean. Bring a pen and notebook. \$3. Please register ahead. Feb. 9, Mar. 2. 9:30-11:30 a.m.

MONTHLY HEARING CLINIC
Connect Hearing will be Pelham Public Library's Fonthill branch giving free hearing screenings. They will be able to answer any questions about various hearing issues. Free but please schedule your appointment by calling 905-892-6068. Feb. 4, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

DROP-IN BRIDGE
alternate Wednesdays at Pelham library, 3 p.m. Come alone or with a friend. Refreshments.

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COMPUTER WORKSHOPS
and one-on-one training are available at Wainfleet Township Public Library Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons. Please call the library at 905-899-1277 for more details and to book an appointment.

COMPUTER TUTOR and Gadget Clinic. Get matched with a volunteer tech tutor for one-on-one help and training. This clinic at Pelham library is suited for beginners. Offers help with web browsing; searching; webmail account setup and management; e-readers, e-books and audiobooks from your library; Facebook, Twitter and other social media; YouTube; managing, editing and sharing your digital photos online; and more. Includes use of laptop

or bring your own gadget. Saturdays 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., \$5 per half-hour. Please register ahead in person to reserve your space.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT
Anyone who is grieving the loss of a loved one, meetings are every second and fourth Thursday of the month at St. Kevin's church (Hospitality Room) from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., 303 Niagara St. Call 905-732-3969 for further information.

WELLAND FRIENDLY CLUB
seniors bingo, every Wednesday at 1 p.m. at Wesley United Church, 244 First Ave. N. Everyone welcome.

WELLAND RIVER KEEPERS
meets the third Tuesday of every month at Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority office, 250 Thorold Rd. W., Welland, third floor, 7 p.m. More info, 905-735-9861.

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W. Gifford-Jones, MD

Dr. Gifford-Jones is a graduate of the University of Toronto and The Harvard Medical School. He trained in general surgery at the Strong Memorial Hospital, University of Rochester, Montreal General Hospital, McGill University and in Gynecology at Harvard. His weekly medical column is published in 70 Canadian newspapers and reaches six million readers.

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